



Thomas "Tom" Boeke

July 20, 1937 - December 15, 2020

Thomas "Tom" Boeke, age 83, passed away on Tuesday, December 15, 2020, at the Keelson Harbour Senior Living Facility in Spirit Lake, IA.

A time of visitation will be held from 4:00 - 6:00 pm on Wednesday, December 16th at the Schuchert-Lentz Funeral Home in Spirit Lake, IA. The family will not be present. A flowing visitation will be held from 4:00 - 6:00 pm on Thursday, December 17th in conjunction with his beloved wife's visitation at the Boeke Funeral Home in Hubbard, IA. A double graveside service for Tom & Marge will be held at the Hubbard Cemetery on Friday, December 18th at 10:30 am.

Please wear a mask and respect social distancing guidelines at all functions.

The Schuchert-Lentz Funeral Home in Spirit Lake is in charge of Spirit Lake arrangements and the Boeke Funeral Home in Hubbard is in charge of Hubbard Arrangements.

Thomas Henry Boeke was born on July 20, 1937 to Golda Mae (Reese) Boeke and Arthur Henry Boeke in Hubbard, Iowa. Tom had loved growing up in Hubbard—his family and relatives, his parents' drugstore, and, admittedly, causing some mischief.

On August 17, 1957, he married his high school sweetheart, Marjorie Ellen

(Oberhokamp) Boeke. The last few years of his life were dedicated to caring for her, remaining at her side. His family was not surprised when he followed her in death three days later.

Tom attended college at the University of Iowa and optometry school at SCO in Memphis, Tennessee. Following graduation, he was thrilled to be hired by Dr. Alfred L. Klein in Spirit Lake, Iowa where he practiced until retirement. Up until the end, he marveled that he and Al never shared a disagreeable word in their forty-plus years of working together.

Tom loved the lakes region and living on the lake. Summer was his favorite, when he could sail, boat, swim, and ride his bike around the lake. He enjoyed his mornings looking out at the lake from his "birding chair" in the living room. For years, people recognized him buzzing around town in his yellow VW bug convertible. He enjoyed taking his grandkids to the amusement park in Arnold's Park, where he seemed to know everyone.

A loyal Hawkeye fan to the end, he kept up with the football team this season. There was a lot of black and gold in his closet and many road trips to Iowa City. Pre- and post-game, he enjoyed meeting up with his relatives from Hubbard.

At the end of every summer, Tom went to Canada to fish with three of his Spirit Lake buddies: Jim Ladegaard, Rick Nielsen, and Mike Stineman. They were family to him, and he had such fond memories of those trips. A slideshow was made of their fishing photos to the tune of "What a Wonderful Life," which he insisted be played at his funeral. Tom's three kids are forever grateful to Jim Ladegaard for doing so much for Tom in his final years.

Tom might have been most respected for his dedication to community. Not only did he attend church, but he actively lived a life of caring for others and giving back. He was on so many boards and committees over the years, but his favorite philanthropic endeavor was helping Senor, (Cliff Henderman), distribute donated glasses to those who couldn't afford eye exams or glasses in Mexico, where he sponsored the education of a young girl.

Tom loved traveling, teasing, and talking, and he loved doing it most with his

four grandchildren. He was such a wonderful grandfather—happy, helpful, patient, ready to boat to the Park for a root beer float at a moment's notice. His favorite line that they all remember was, "You gonna be smart like your grandpa?" They remember him so fondly.

Tom is survived by his two siblings, Peter Boeke (Chandler, AZ), and Susan (Boeke) Brinkmeyer (Hubbard, IA); his three children, Anthony J. Boeke (Hubbard, IA), Ann M. Boeke (Des Moines, IA), and Angela J. Boeke (Breckenridge, CO); and his four grandchildren, Ellie M. Conser (Los Angeles, CA), Maxwell R. Alberhasky (Austin, TX), Grayson H. Alberhasky (Dallas, TX), and Ruby R. Gerard (Breckenridge, CO).

He was preceded in death by his parents and his beloved wife Marjorie.

We will miss Tom and his zest for life!

Thomas passed away on December 15, 2020 from Covid-19.

Memorial contributions may be directed to:

Dickinson County Trails

PO Box 304

Okoboji, IA 51355

Lakeside Lab

1838 IA-86

Milford, IA 51351

Tribute Wall

BF

“ Please accept our deepest sympathies upon the loss of Tom and Marge. They were such treasured friends of our whole family. Tom was our family eye doctor for 30+ years. We enjoyed Bridge Club with Marge and Tom for many wonderful years. They both had such wonderful senses of humor. We will keep the entire family in our thoughts and prayers.

Brian & Jane Ford, Spirit Lake

Brian and Jane Ford - December 28, 2020 at 05:56 PM

S(

“ My Deepest Sympathy to Ann and Family



Sharon (Kabele)Tyson - December 26, 2020 at 02:38 PM

DT

“ I remember the first time I met Tom and Marge. They came to my parent's home so we could be introduced to them. He had just joined my dad's practice in the early 60s. He was a soft spoken, patient, and caring person with a love of optometry. Marge was always smiling and devoted to her family. They were wonderful people, and will both be sorely missed. We send our deepest sympathies. Deborah (Klein) and Kenneth Thompson.

Deborah Thompson - December 24, 2020 at 01:56 AM

JF

“ *Jim O'Neill & Family lit a candle in memory of Thomas "Tom" Boeke*



Jim O'Neill & Family - December 23, 2020 at 09:36 AM



“ *Tara Currier-Hofer lit a candle in memory of Thomas "Tom" Boeke*



Tara Currier-Hofer - December 22, 2020 at 09:43 PM



Tom and Marge were such a sweet couple. Tom was my family's eye doctor. They were special friends of ours and they will be missed.

Tara Currier-Hofer - December 22, 2020 at 09:45 PM

JB

“ *JULIE BERGQUIST lit a candle in memory of Thomas "Tom" Boeke*



JULIE BERGQUIST - December 22, 2020 at 10:11 AM



“ *Matthew Hawn lit a candle in memory of Thomas "Tom" Boeke*



Matthew Hawn - December 21, 2020 at 03:45 AM

MS

“ *Yes, agreeing with all the other accurate, wonderful words about Dr. Tom.*

He and his precious wife made positive differences in the lives they touched.

Thankful for them...and their special family. God bless all.

Again, thankful that Heaven Is Real and we will see our Loved Ones again...

hold onto your Faith.

Marilyn Strickland

Marilyn Strickland - December 18, 2020 at 03:34 PM

DF

“ Dr Tom was a major influence in my life and the primary reason I chose a path to pursue the profession of optometry. His daily professionalism, community presence and just his total package of being a really cool man, and a respected eye doctor, made me want to be like him. He provided personal time to me to share tough love comments about what it would take to accomplish a lofty professional goal. He challenged me. I never forgot his words and they still inspire me today when I care for patients. We exchanged pleasantries a few years back; there was a twinkle in his eye knowing he had played a significant role in my life, like he did for countless others. This Okoboji icon will missed by all who knew him.

Steve Ferguson

Dr Steve Ferguson - December 18, 2020 at 08:53 AM

DM

“ Our heartfelt sympathy to the Boeke family. We will treasure our memories as colleagues and friends. So, so sorry for your loss. Dr. Paul and Patricia Martin

Dr. Paul and Patricia Martin - December 17, 2020 at 11:00 AM

WK

“ We were saddened to hear of your earthly good-bye's to both your parents;however, what a true blessing that they could walk into heaven together. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you. This chapter is so very tough on us, but what a glorious new book for your folks to write together.



Wayne and Diana (Doocy) Koppen - December 17, 2020 at 01:35 AM

LL

“ Am so saddened by the news of Marge and Dr Boeke’s passing! So many memories! When Larry and I returned from college to live in Spirit Lake I was fortunate enough to be hired by Dr Klein and Dr Boeke, which at that time was Optometric Associates. Both were patient and kind employers. I learned so much. Will always remember driving Dr Boeke’s yellow mustang to go get office mail, with a side stop at the Spirit Lake Bakery for donuts! There were always alot of laughs! Will be thinking of all of the family! Hugs and prayers! Bless you all!
Marcie and Larry Lago



Larry and Marcie Lago - December 16, 2020 at 09:05 PM

VM

“ Vicki Vos Milverstedt sent a virtual gift in memory of Thomas "Tom" Boeke



Vicki Vos Milverstedt - December 16, 2020 at 08:45 PM

BS

“ What an exceptional couple. Our sympathy to the Boeke family. Bob and Kate Shaw



Bob and Kate Shaw - December 16, 2020 at 08:17 PM

BW

“ *Bev Wittler lit a candle in memory of Thomas "Tom" Boeke*



Bev Wittler - December 16, 2020 at 06:50 PM

WD

“ *My deepest sympathy to the Boeke family. Tom was my optometrist for many years until we moved away from the area. We always had a good time arguing about Iowa and Iowa State. He was a great person.*

Wendell Davis - December 16, 2020 at 01:51 PM

AA

“ *Amanda (Smit) Amirie lit a candle in memory of Thomas "Tom" Boeke*



Amanda (Smit) Amirie - December 16, 2020 at 01:48 PM

AA

“ *My heart goes out to the Boeke Family! I'm so so sorry for your loss this past week! Tom and Marge will always be in my thoughts and prayers. As a childhood friend of Angela's, I have such fond memories of them - they were like my second parents! I admired their fit lifestyle and loved eating at their house as Marge was such an amazing baker/cook I couldn't get enough of all her homemade goodness! I thank them for putting up with our teenage shenanigans as well! My sincerest condolences! Amanda (Smit) Amirie*

Amanda (Smit) Amirie - December 16, 2020 at 01:46 PM

LC

“ Our sympathy to the Boeke family. How heartbreaking to lose both parents at once. We will miss them both, and are thankful for the lives of such wonderful people.

The Staff at the Pearson Lakes Art Center



Lakes Art Center - December 16, 2020 at 01:17 PM

DT

“ Tom and Marge will forever be two of my favorite people in the lakes area. So many great memories but I will always see them outside exercising and being an inspiration to maintain your health throughout your life. We'll all miss you. Thoughts and hugs to the family. David Thoreson

David Thoreson - December 16, 2020 at 10:38 AM

FK

“ Fred Kaminska lit a candle in memory of Thomas "Tom" Boeke



Fred Kaminska - December 16, 2020 at 09:57 AM

DB

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. My sympathy.

Dayle Broocks



Dayle Broocks - December 16, 2020 at 09:49 AM

DF

“ *Dianne & Steve Franker lit a candle in memory of Thomas "Tom" Boeke*



Dianne & Steve Franker - December 16, 2020 at 09:30 AM

EB

“ *I remember when your dad started his practice with Dr. Klein, that was a long time ago, he was a wonderful doctor, and person. I got to know him better, when I worked with his and my friend, Dr. Stephen Rose, so many wonderful memories. My heart goes out to your family losing both your parents so close together.*



Evy (Hilliard) Billings - December 16, 2020 at 08:44 AM

BC

“ *To The Family....We were deeply saddened to read of the passing of your loved parents. We send our sincere condolences, prayers and love to your family. We were First Lutheran friends of theirs....🙏 Bill and Judy Carmichael*



Bill and Judy Carmichael - December 16, 2020 at 08:12 AM

PG

“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Boeke family. Your dad was always a presence in our community!
When I would visit my mom at Keelson Harbour, Tom would notice my convertible and drum up a conversation with me.
I introduced a new KH employee awhile back to Tom and "bragged" about why Tom always wore classy eye glasses!
I'll also never forget when we ran into them in the Denver Airport after a ski trip with our kids years ago. Your dad was so nice!
But I'll most remember the legacy he left of the devotion he had to your mom. I witnessed it almost daily for the two years my mom resided at Keelson Harbour (until March 13, 2020 when we could no longer enter). He was always by his wife's side.
God be with you during this difficult time.
Peggy and Bruce Gustafson

Peggy Gustafson - December 16, 2020 at 07:59 AM

PR

“ Will miss this guy.....bless that he and Marge are together.



Peggy Rick - December 15, 2020 at 10:43 PM

NM

“ Norm Meinking lit a candle in memory of Thomas "Tom" Boeke



norm meinking - December 15, 2020 at 10:32 PM

SH

“ My family RF Herrick , my Dad thought the world of you Tom
And you were so nice to everyone
Art and Goldie were really great friends of our family. You will be
missed Tom . Sally Herrick Haas

Sally Haas - December 15, 2020 at 09:57 PM

NR

“ Nancy Rees lit a candle in memory of
Thomas "Tom" Boeke



Nancy Rees - December 15, 2020 at 08:30 PM

LJ

“ Larry And Mary Ann Jansen lit a candle in
memory of Thomas "Tom" Boeke



Larry and Mary Ann Jansen - December 15, 2020 at 06:16 PM